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WIDER HIGHWAYS AND EYEWAYS

TO THE

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT HOUSE AND PENN'S PILLAR.

Now that the marble is all in place except the steeple, and most of the structure under roof, is the fitting time to amend the city-plan in the vicinage of the imposing architectural pile at Broad and Market streets, in order that it may be seen to the best advantage, and its surroundings made attractive to citizens and neighbors, and sojourners from afar.

Omitting the Pennsylvania R.R. Depot, the Masonic Temple, and the U. S. Mint—three conspicuous objects—there is no structure on either of the streets which bound the great edifice, that may not be demolished or sliced off on one side, to widen streetway and make room for public stands and open areas convertible into garden-spots.

On the Filbert street or north main front there is, fortunately, a space of almost two hundred feet between the building-lines, in contrast with a hundred feet of streetway on the east, south, and west sides of the municipal establishment.

On the south side there is a positive and downright necessity for the widening of Broad street, from South Penn Square street, two hundred and four feet, to Chestnut street, say a hundred feet on each side, so that the Philadelphia Department House may be seen in its grandeur from Chestnut street, a thronged popular thoroughfare, in a perspective view of its symmetrical proportions.

At Chestnut street, on the south-side crossing, the spectator would then be three hundred and fifty-nine (359) feet away from the massive object of contemplation, near enough to appreciate its magnitude and ornamentation, and distant enough to concentrate its profile and ensemble in his vision.

In the middle of Broad street, if widened from one hundred and thirteen (113) feet, its present width, to three hundred and thirteen (313) feet, by the addition of a hundred (100) feet to either side, from South Penn Square street to Chestnut street, a plat might be laid out

between two wheelways for conveyances of all kinds, with a footway through its centre for pedestrians, opposite the grand arch of the south portal, in line with Penn's Pillar.

Here, indeed, would be an appropriate place, of suitable space, for statuary and works of art, where statues could be seen to advantage and with satisfaction, amidst flower-beds in green lawns, and water-jets scattering spray.

What is a statue but a distinguished man proxied in marble or in bronze to perpetuate his merits, so that his example may not be lost? What is a work of art but an imitation of nature, or a conception of the mind materialized in matter cut or cast, to give unchangeable expression to an inspiration evolved in an idea, translated by genius in allegory or image, after methods which make names imperishable and deeds immortal among men? Works in marble and in bronze move the thoughtful in all the conditions of human life, between the morning of youth and the sunset of age.

Juniper street might be widened forty feet on its east side, from Chestnut street to Arch street, which latter is of medium width, and sure to catch overflow from Market street.

Filbert street might be widened southward about a hundred feet to Silver street, between Juniper street and Thirteenth street. This widening surely would not cost much, and from Thirteenth street it would open a striking view and metropolitanize the place.

And Filbert street might also be widened northward a hundred and forty-four feet to Cuthbert street, from Broad street west three hundred feet. This proposition will proselyte all who may consider it impartially.

Market street might be widened on its north side, from Merrick street to Fifteenth street, a distance of a hundred and twenty feet. And now is the time to do it, before the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, one of the city's Institutions, will have been enlarged east of Fifteenth street to Merrick street.

Between Market street and South Penn Square street, distance two hundred and thirty feet, and from Merrick street to Fifteenth street, distance a hundred and twenty feet, all the buildings, which are few in number, and none of which are costly or imposing, might be demolished, and the ground utilized as open area, according to the cosmopolitan interests and metropolitan needs, present and prospective, of Pennsylvania's seaport, and America's "city of homes."

Merrick street might be opened from South Penn Square street through to Chestnut street, distance two hundred and four (204) feet, thereby to provide a new and additional route to the Courts and Offices in the Philadelphia Department House, which is sure to maintain its supremacy among public buildings outside of Washington City,

for a considerable time. It is a monument of the time and manner of its erection, without debt, out of city taxation.

The glimpse afforded by Juniper street, from Chestnut street, a catching glance, with the Masonic Temple in the background, will be made still more interesting by spontaneous contrast with the view that Merrick street, extended through to Chestnut street, will disclose, with the depot tower and church-spire in the background.

PARIS.

No one who has not been to Paris,—the political capital of France, the supreme capital of fashion in the world,—can realize or appreciate the money-value, measured by considerations of taste and art in trade, of the spaces and places open to the public in that best-embellished city, which exacts homage from votaries of fashion who have bills of credit on banking houses.

Paris, it is said, in politics, is France; and Paris, it may be said, *in fashion*, is the focus of the world's eyes, with St. Petersburg, Berlin, Vienna and London for its subordinates and suburbs.

And as the empire of fashion covers three hundred and sixty degrees of longitude, and extends from pole to pole, the dominion of Paris in art traffic is identical with the habitable surface of the globe.

True, the improvements made by the municipality to embellish Paris, cost enormous sums of money; but the expenditure incurred has yielded profit to the collective population in transactions with strangers attracted thither in swelling numbers, from all lands; for more strangers sojourn in Paris in a year than in any other city on the earth, and disburse more money per capita per day there, than at any other stop-over in Europe.

Where eye and tongue jointly plead to pocket, the wallet is sure to be depleted, and the trunk sure to be crammed. And so the thousands who flock to Paris fulfil their mission with satisfaction, and return home happier, as owners of portable wardrobes, stored with outfits for church, opera, promenade and parlor; and with gripsacks and bundles suggestive of animated Parcels' Expresses.

PHILADELPHIA.

And now that the city of Philadelphia contains nigh a million inhabitants and is surpassed in population by only one city in America, and by only one city in England, one in France, and one in Germany, but three cities in the three principal nations of Europe, it must not cease

to add to its attractions, meanwhile that thousands of new houses are annually added to its homes, and hundreds of industrial hives every year increase its multifarious manufactures.

Americans are a travelling people and tourists from State to State, and from Europe to the United States, journey in larger number every twelve months. And it may be said that, nowadays, no city is more than a stop-over to an excursionist or a tourist; but between a stop-over for a day, or a fortnight, or a month, there is a wide difference, and if passengers on the north and south and east and west railroad thoroughfares through this city, which contains the best located passenger delivery in the United States, go by without stopping, surely the reason is worthy of inquiry because a remedy is within reach.

To be sure, where passengers are carried by millions there are of course many intent to reach their objective points, without stop-over delay, but on the other hand, there are thousands "abroad on their travels" who wish to return home wiser than they left, and out of this large percentage of the moving multitude, eager and intelligent, Philadelphia must continue to draw guests and buyers in number proportionate to the expanding grand total.

It is the combination of the artificial with the natural that makes a citadel or a city impregnable to assailants in arms or rivals in trade. Competition in money matters, in mart and market, is war waged without deadly weapons, yet, nevertheless, as fatal in dollars to the losing side as vital in lives to an armed force defeated in the field.

It will not suffice, because it will not satisfy, to put ten to fifteen million dollars in civic walls, pierced for window-panes and with surmountings to withstand the weather,—however majestic and beautiful the work may be,—and then stop short in outlay for appropriate adornment of neighborhood surroundings.

Thus far the cost of the White House has been paid, albeit well up to a million dollars a year, out of the proceeds of the annual tax-rate. Its ground site, Penn Square, was the gift of William Penn, the founder of the city and the state, when he read the horoscope on his first arrival, and forecasted the future in his approved plan of public streets and building lots. Penn's vision of Philadelphia was prophetic.

The taxpayer of to-day, two hundred years subsequent to Penn's choice of a location for his capital city, will expect a ground plan outside the walls of an edifice built for the posterity of those who paid for it, consistent with the expenditure incurred for construction upon its foundations and with the capabilities of adjacent properties. Hence the sooner the ground and buildings within the limits mentioned herein are condemned for public use by the city, the smaller will be the cost to the treasury and the greater the satisfaction of the people.

INDEPENDENCE HALL.

Philadelphia is favored in the possession of Independence Hall, which she owns in fee, and at the same time holds in trust for American citizens and foreign pilgrims, and which may be likened figuratively to the optical instrument called the "magic lantern," because it magnifies the words of the Declaration, and illuminates the political atmosphere that envelops the globe, so enabling subjects of dynasties to comprehend and appreciate wherein and why the Great Republic which spans America, and whose citizens are "born free and equal" in the law,—the way to preferment in it being open to the ballot, and the offices and honors competitive to the general public,—is a light among human governments like the sun among the planets.

And as the sun is the source of quenchless solar light, so is Independence Hall the source of quenchless political light. The difference is that in the planetary system there is only one sun, whilst on the planet of which Adam was the first human inhabitant, there may be many lanterns of the American pattern, one of which, next in illuminating power to the original one in Philadelphia, shines at Paris, the Magic Lantern of the French Republic, visible throughout Europe, where darkness prevails.

In London there are advanced preparations for a lighthouse, the masses in the United Kingdom having the prerequisites for citizenship, in a republic composed of independent States combined under a national constitution, not dissoluble; for separation of States, is disintegration of union, and disunion is reaction from progress back to despotism.

In Berlin, Vienna, and Rome, there are architects at work in drafting-rooms on political plans for the people. And as there are maritime lighthouses on the coasts of the seas, so in time there will be political lighthouses in the capitals of dynastic nations, for subject-man is aroused to the causes and the circumstances of his enthralled condition. If the poor in London organized their number and applied their force, the proprietary gentry would not be so exacting, the poor would not be so wretched. When a leader shall here rise from the ranks, there will ensue a change in London; and the vast city, which is now and then terrorized by dynamite miscreants, emissaries, or detectives, will vindicate the law of numbers in the righteousness of revolution. And that way-station, the House of Lords, will be turned into a Senate House.

The shackles of slavery have here and there been cast-off, and so will the fetters on subjects in oppression be unlocked with keys made of melted crowns from miscalled royal heads.

God created Adam and moulded in Eve the casting-box which is

everywhere common among mothers to this day. Royalty and nobility founded on the sword, and patented for political purposes, are unknown to nature at birth and at death. Hence the king, prince and noble, who arrogate birthright prerogatives and wear hereditary titles, are usurpers who have been too long tolerated; for nature, which portions the year into seasons, does not divide civil society into castes, but so distributes her endowment of brain-power that, in the heads of orphan pupils of Girard College there is as much fertile soil for the educational plough as in the heads of students in the University. A child born in a poorhouse has been envied in a palace, because of manifest mental superiority, and herein is one of the compensations of nature, one of the sources of power in the masses, to make the column of progress move ahead. Mind is a force in nature, like electricity and steam. Its *application* is the lesson of the day.

Thus Independence Hall, the consecrated scene of events and associations hallowed by a century of fruitful time, is an inexhaustible source of light and promise; for within its walls the signers of the immortal Declaration which thrills patriots everywhere with pure and lofty aspirations, created out of thirteen colonies and three millions of subjects a new and advanced nation "of the people, for the people," and made it conspicuous among the powers of the earth; because it was founded on a political creed as vital to man for the vindication of his natural rights in his mundane career, as the ecclesiastical creed of the New Messiah was to man for his spiritual guidance through this to the after life.

And as man strives against the sinful tendencies in human nature, wherein the spurious differs in degree or percentage below the par of perfection, in proportion to his moral principle or lack of it, as the ores of iron differ in intrinsic contents before purification into metal fitted for use in the arts, so does he prepare himself for that final separation of mind from matter which is inevitable, since every human being is predestinated to the scythe of the universal Reaper, his body to go to dust, his soul to judgment.

The Declaration of Independence and the Sermon on the Mount, considered in the order of date, as lessons for citizen-electors and subject-candidates for the franchise, and also as exhortations to the congregations within and the multitudes without the tabernacles of the sects, exalt manhood above subject and serf-chattels of crowned heads to equality of citizenship in a republic, distant but one door from dream-land, one floor from heaven.

FAIRMOUNT PARK.

The Garden of Eden, as readers know, was on the Euphrates in Asia Minor; and Fairmount Park, the American paradise, in eyes sensitive to scenery in the luxuriance of nature not disfigured by too much art, occupies both banks of the Schuylkill river in Philadelphia, where it charmed the Irish poet, Thomas Moore, who sang to it; where it mirrors a valley carpeted with clover and grass,—two sources of delicious fragrance,—and is planted with evergreens and nursery shrubs and bushes, native and exotic, and with deciduous trees curtained with tapestries of laces in leaves, and garlands of tangled vines and wild flowers in wreaths, not made with hands nor dyed like yarns for looms or threads of wool and silk for needlework; but in the hues and tints of the zone's botany, displayed in the fashions of the seasons over the surface of a city-bound pleasure-ground as over a model dairy-farm out in the solitude of the country.

And where, too, there are fields with receding terraces like amphitheatrical tiers, and irregular plateaux parted by glens and gorges musical with laughing waters gushing from springs, between wooded hill-tops where shade is spread over visitors in summer-time and dirges are sung by the winds through waving limbs in the winter months.

The elevations and depressions in the surface of the ground are, moreover, attractions in the landscape from the embroidered river-shore at water-mark to the crest of the land lifted up to the horizon against the sky; as the eyes and lips and the brows, cheeks, nose and chin are attractive combination features in the Caucasian countenance, in its kaleidoscopic expression of passing thoughts.

The most romantic affluent of the Schuylkill river in Fairmount Park is the Wissahickon Creek, which hurries down over boulders in its path, through a defile as wild and phenomenal in its geology and flora, as a cañon in Colorado; for its fissured and buttressed walls of rock are almost vertical, save where wagon-roads turn out through side-gates and tributary rills run in through narrow water-gaps.

No such wooded and rock-bound stream as the pensive, blank-verse Wissahickon in Philadelphia, is anywhere else found within a city, so easily and so cheaply accessible to a large population. It is a veritable wonder; and with the rest of Fairmount Park, of which it is an annex, yet, as different as an ear from an elbow, it is destined soon to rank as a national attraction.

A flat nose is not considered "a thing of beauty" in the American face, nor is flat land comparable with a fairy-haunted river-basin with a high rim, for a city park.

Between Fairmount Park and Penn's Pillar at the Public Depart-

ment House, via Logan Square, distance precisely one geographical mile in straight line, there ought to be a *Mainway* with wide sidewalks and ample space between the curbstones for a double-track railway and two courses for carriages and teams. This *Mainway* might tap Callowhill street at the angle at Twenty-third street, whence Callowhill street, merged in the Mainway, might be widened on its northern side to the Park boundary advanced eastward from the Spring Garden street bridge, to the Fancy Soap Works distant about five hundred feet; to which line the buildings which occupy a narrow belt between the street and the river could be cleared away, and a grand spacious entrance opened through a river-side plaza to the existing drives and walks beyond the forebay and east of Lemon Hill.

From the Spring Garden street bridge, which has two levels, where Callowhill street ends and Fairmount Park begins, the eye, following the course of Callowhill street to Twenty-third street, and thence on in range over the tree-tops in Logan Square to Broad street, commands a grand view of the Department House and the Masonic Temple, with a patch of sky between, giving to each edifice, one of granite the other of marble, its true architectural aspect.

This proposition for a wideway between two magnetic poles of urban and rural attraction, any one can put to optical test who will visit the Spring Garden street bridge and from its second level, north-east end, look in range of Callowhill street extended in imaginary line, southeastward to the terminus before mentioned.

Such a Mainway, practicable in its short length, and self-pleading and convincing in its economy of cost, in contrast with its wealth of product in promise, would make a famous connecting link between "town and country;" for Fairmount Park is as rural and picturesque as any part of Pennsylvania; and Penn's Pillar is the civic centre of Philadelphia.

Columbia, Girard and Fairmount avenues, and Green street, four thoroughfares with drives into Fairmount Park, are all north of the commercial, financial and hotel quarters of the city; the Callowhill street entrance is solely for pedestrians; there is no drive there for vehicles, a circumstance which is a rank injustice to the wards of highest valuation of taxable real estate—an important revenue consideration in city government; wards, too, wherein visitors and strangers of both sexes of the shopping fraternity congregate, and well-stocked stores abound in variety unsurpassed and capacity unequalled to gratify every taste and satisfy every purse, out of a magic scale of prices comprising the quotations of the market, from par for the very best of everything, down to the minutest item in the household catalogue; and where, finally, Park air and Park exercise are as often prescribed, as in

prosperous uptown localities blessed with routes broad and direct to Park gates.

The area of Fairmount Park, it is well to know and not forget, is 2791 acres, including 373 acres of water-surface (the Schuylkill river), equal in land and water to twenty-seven (27) farms of 103 acres each. Laurel Hill Cemetery, though it is dovetailed in the Park, is not included in its acreage. The principal drive is twelve and a quarter miles long, from the Green street entrance *via* the Lincoln Monument, Girard Avenue Bridge, Horticultural Hall, Belmont Summit, and the Falls Bridge to and up the Wissahickon drive to its terminus, abreast of Chestnut Hill.

A distinguishing characteristic of Fairmount Park is that it is, front and rear, throughout its entire length, of easy access by streets and roads and railways to the inhabitants who are its joint owners, a million strong, and who will take care to preserve it intact for the people, who appreciate and enjoy its air, its water, and its walks and drives. In verity Fairmount Park is the lung nearest the heart in the breast of the city, and the suburban hills and crested heights back of it in broken semicircle, are sympathetic parts of its right lung, divided by intersecting valleys into unequal lobes.

And as Washington City is the highest court among men, where the seat of justice is nearest the Judgment-seat, so Fairmount Park is a courthouse of the flower-world, where nature reigns supreme in the loveliest of her bowers and inaugurates the month in the uniform of the weather, in this way making the revolving year a grand march, beginning with spring banners in April blossoms, and ending with tattered flags in November rags, to show that the campaign is over till the winter-time for vegetation rest goes by.

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